

SENATOR PETERSON: Just to say, Mr. Speaker, that this just clarifies that the EMTs now would be, that they would be certified because they have to take a course and puts them under, defines them under the statute where they should be with the other people that...ambulance attendants and the volunteer firemen and that. I ask for the advancement of the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Shall LB 442 be advanced to E & R? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of 442.

SPEAKER BARRETT: LB 442 is advanced. LB 561.

CLERK: Mr. President, 561 was a bill introduced by Senator Rod Johnson and Senator Moore. (Title read.) The bill was introduced on January 23 of this year, referred to the Ag Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President. I do have committee amendments pending by the Agriculture Committee.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Johnson, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, LB 561 is a bill that has helped facilitate what I consider to be a great number of economic development proposals dealing with agriculture. The Ag Committee looked at well over ten bills specifically designed to assist agriculture in some furtherance of economic development in the ag sector and the ag business sector. And we have attempted after a lengthy amount of discussion in the committee as well as through redrafting 561 to help facilitate many of the ideas that were brought to the committee dealing with economic development and we have rewritten the bill and basically the committee amendments thus become the bill. And I don't want to take a lot of time away from Senator Moore's comments on the bill, but I'll just briefly run you down through the bill as redrafted. Basically establishes an ag promotion and development program that would have two employees, a director and a researcher, both whom report and will be directly responsible to the Director of Agriculture. Their basic work will come in the areas of promotion and marketing, value added processing, diversification which will include poultry and aquaculture development and also a study and research of